



ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

Spring 2010

A quarterly news bulletin to provide project managers and district environmental staff with current permit requirements, training opportunities and other environmental information.

STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

EPA Stormwater Inspection!!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently inspected a couple NDOR projects for compliance with the construction stormwater permit. Following the inspection several recommendations were made by the inspector and are summarized below:

- **Earth Berms** – We have been promoting the use of earth berms on NDOR projects as a quick and inexpensive way to temporarily control sediment. After the inspection, EPA expressed concern over the use of earth berms since they are ultimately erodible. They did not state we shouldn't be using them, only that earth berms are not a good idea in particular areas of the project. Specifically EPA does not recommend using them directly adjacent to streams (discharge points) unless they are covered with an erosion control blanket, geotextile or other stabilization measure. So, if you are using earth berms on your project for ditch checks etc., be sure to include a silt fence, wattle or other sediment control device at the discharge point to catch any sediment before it can enter a waterbody.
- **BMP Installation Details** – EPA noted that every BMP utilized on the project must have an installation detail included in the SWPPP. We currently include details for the most widely used BMPs in the SWPPP but occasionally temporary measures are installed and details are not provided. We'll be making changes to the SWPPP template to address this for future projects. If the Contractor is required to submit an installation detail prior to use, as is the case with inlet protection devices, a copy of that detail needs to be placed in the SWPPP.
- **Inspector Certification and Oversight** - EPA stressed the importance of having a NDOR Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector supervising the installation of sediment and erosion control measures on the project as outlined in the SWPPP and our project's Special Provisions. We recommend documenting in the SWPPP, the names, certification numbers and expiration dates of all the qualified people on the project. Remember that the Special Provisions require that a certified inspector be present during the installation of all erosion and sediment control BMPs.
- **Overall** – The EPA inspector had a lot of good things to say about the inspection reports, SWPPP and BMPs on the project. He stated that as long as we are implementing and updating the SWPPP, we should remain in compliance. Also, not surprisingly, the inspector was most interested in looking at the discharge points on the project so additional efforts will be beneficial in those areas.

Environmental Compliance Oversight Inspections

For those of you utilizing the ECO-Database (ECOD) Inspection Tool for environmental compliance inspections, here are few things to keep in mind. First, remember to sync whenever you log in to the inspection tool. This will keep your software up to date with the latest changes and will also submit completed reports to headquarters. Second, any corrective actions noted in the report will need to be followed up on and addressed. Hard copies of the report can be printed off and given to the Project Manager and/or Prime Contractor to sign off on as corrective actions are completed. When you start another ECOD inspection for the same project you will be prompted to insert a completion date for each corrective action from the previous inspection. This allows us to track all that information within the database.

Contact Information: Ron Poe: -- (402) 479-4499, Gabe Robertson – (402) 479-4685

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Is It Time for a Vegetation Inspection?

Closing the Construction Stormwater Permit requires the project to have 70 percent vegetation cover (compared to the pre-project vegetation). To determine whether this requirement is met, contact either Carol Wienhold or Ron Poe of NDOR's Roadside Stabilization Unit. Carol will either schedule a trip to see your project or she will ask for you to send photographs of the project's seeded areas. Generally, evaluating the vegetation can happen from May through October.

Things that Carol will be looking at during the inspection include:

- Photos from before the project began, if they are available - - or looking at the vegetation near the ends of the project will work, too.
- Is the vegetation cover uniform throughout the project, or are there significant bare spots?
- Are the roadside plants the perennial ones in the permanent seed mixture, or are they mostly cover crop or weeds?
- Are there areas where erosion is occurring?

Carol will use a small frame to collect data points, and will take several pictures. This information serves as documentation of the vegetation cover.

If the vegetation MEETS the permit requirement, then Carol will start the Notice of Termination signature process, and inspections need to continue monthly for 180 more days. The Project Manager will receive a signed copy of the Notice of Termination. After that period is complete, then you can stop inspecting and send the SWPPP manual to the Roadside Stabilization Unit in the Central Complex for archiving.

If the vegetation DOES NOT MEET the permit requirement, then inspections must continue as before - - bi-weekly AND after any 0.5 inch rain event - - until the vegetation cover improves. If the grasses aren't coming in well, Carol and Ron may recommend further actions to help.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Migratory Bird Nesting Season is Here!

Be aware that the migratory bird nesting season started April 1. If you are planning to remove trees, shrubs, or work on culverts/bridges between now and October 1, please contact Eric Zach at 402-479-4766 to schedule a survey. To ensure NDOR activities do not affect migratory birds a qualified person must conduct a survey prior to your activities.

Contact Information: Eric Zach – (402) 479-4766

UPCOMING TRAINING

A "NDOR Certified Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspectors Course" is being scheduled for some time in June 2010, most likely around the Lincoln area. We are also planning on offering the "NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control for Designers Course" in conjunction with the inspector course.

If you are interested please contact Ron Poe at (402) 479-4499 or Dennis Smith with LTAP at (402) 472-0976 for more information. Course information is also available on the LTAP website at:

http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html